



Charles Sturt  
University

School of Rural Medicine  
Faculty of Science and Health

INFORMATION ON OUR  
MEDICAL STUDENTS'  
RESEARCH PROGRAM

MAKE A DIFFERENCE



## THE MD PROJECT PROGRAM

Medical students across Australia engage in scholarly research as part of their medical education. At Charles Sturt, the MD project is a key component of the Bachelor of Clinical Science (Medicine)/Doctor of Medicine (MD) program exposing students to research, honing their research skills, and enhancing critical assessment skills.

Each MD Project is unique, with students focusing on questions or aims pertinent to their specific Rural Clinical School (RCS), of which CSU has nine. This structure also facilitates larger "umbrella" projects that span multiple locations, targeting health issues affecting rural communities. Students are allocated 10 weeks, divided between the latter half of Year 3 and Year 4, to complete their projects.

Do you have a research idea? Contact us to discuss!

### RURAL HEALTH RESEARCH IMPROVES RURAL HEALTH OUTCOMES



### OUR MD PROJECT MISSION

- 1 To graduate students with strong ethical research capability and provide skills relevant to their future careers as medical professionals
- 2 To provide the opportunity to work with a clinical supervisor and to conduct a hands-on, in-depth investigation of a rural health-related topic
- 3 To increase the research capacity of the rural workforce by collaborating with research interested rural clinicians
- 4 To ensure that student learning is maximised by the dedicated SRM Research & Evaluation team
- 5 To become a centre of excellence for rural health research by supporting and collaborating with rural and remote clinicians

### TYPES OF PROJECTS

As a rural medical school, our focus is on rural health research, as we firmly believe rural health research will improve health outcomes for our rural communities. MD Projects can be developed in one of six areas:

- Clinical Medicine
- Community Health
- Health Innovations
- Indigenous Health
- Health Education
- Biomedical Sciences
- Quality Improvement & Audit

# MD PROJECT TIMELINE

## YEAR 3

JAN - MAY

Commencement of clinical placement. Students engage with their local clinical community, and determine areas of need/supervisors of interest.

JUL - DEC

1-week of allocated MD project time in July focused on research skills.

Aug - Dec: Students to engage with their MD project as much as desired/necessary. Research proposal development/ refinement and ethics application submission + approval if required.

JUNE

Project selection finalised. First joint meeting with student/clinical supervisor/SRM Research Team to discuss project and set expectations and plan.

## YEAR 4

JAN - MAR

3-weeks MD project allocation.

Assessment 1: Literature review + finalised project plan due at the end of week 2.

JUL - AUG

3-weeks MD project allocation (variable dates)

Data collection & analysis if applicable.

Assessment 2: Supervisor assessment

APR - JUN

3-weeks MD project allocation (variable dates)  
Data collection & analysis if applicable.

SEPT

MD project final assessments:

- Assessment 3: Oral presentation task
- Assessment 4: Written submission of abstract & discussion

## MD PROJECTS MAY BE SOURCED IN ONE OF TWO WAYS:

- (1) STUDENT - SOURCED PROJECTS
- (2) RESEARCH TEAM SOURCED PROJECTS

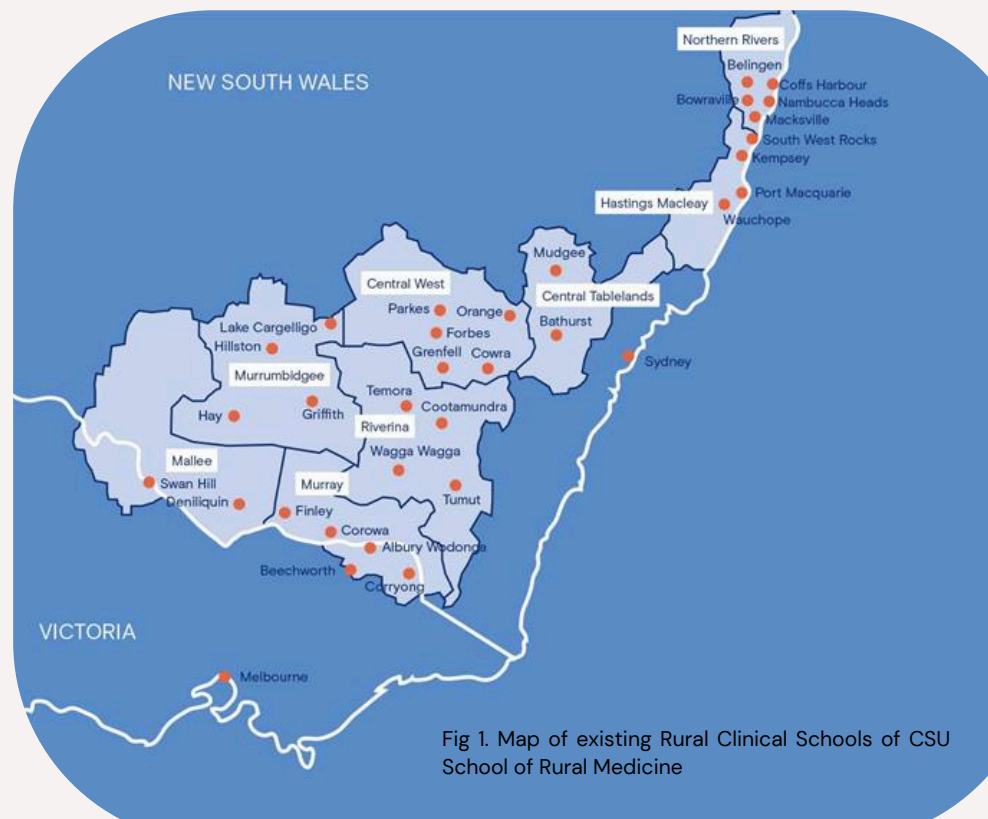


Fig 1. Map of existing Rural Clinical Schools of CSU School of Rural Medicine